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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

April 18, 2016

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Tucson Greyhound Park



The Arizona Racing Commission held a meeting last week, and one of the agenda items was on the placement of greyhounds that will be coming out of Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) when it closes at the end of the year. I've already reached out to the Arizona Department of Racing (ADOR) on this and offered to collaborate.

The Commission meeting included all the right players for this transition. All five commissioners were present, as well as the Department of Racing Director, the Public Information Officer, the TGP representative and general manager, as well as a representative of Arizona greyhound breeders. Everybody stated that the top priority is the safety and care of the dogs until they're adopted out. It was gratifying to finally get at least tacit admission that this track is the end of the dogs' racing ca-



Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police
Department**
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-3242/800-598-9449
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

**Abandoned
Shopping Carts**
791-3171

**Neighborhood
Resources**
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222
TDD: 628-1565

**Environmental
Services**
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

**Planning and
Development
Services** 791-5550

**Pima Animal Care
Center**
724-5900

**Pima County Vector
Control**
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

reers. They come here not because they're fast and winning races, but as one last gasp for the kennels that have been passing injured and ill dogs onto rescues for years.

Note the concrete curb on the inner rail in the photo on the previous page. That's where the animals break feet, toes, and shanks. The rail itself is electrified – and I've reported to you the results of dogs ramming into it. The safe adoption of these animals is now the stated priority of the Arizona Department of Racing and the track.

TGP's lobbyist said he'd be meeting last weekend with all of the kennel operators to establish protocols for the animals' transitions. I've asked the ADOR for a report-out on that meeting.

I've also asked the ADOR if the rules governing the inclusion of out-of-state rescue groups in this process could be relaxed. The local adoption agencies will be overwhelmed if they're all the track has to work with. We do not want the animals sent to PACC, and we do not want them offered up to coyote hunters as bait. I will share with you what I hear back from them, both on the relaxation of the rules and also about how we can work together on the transition. According to the Arizona Revised Statutes, the Department can administratively issue a temporary license so out-of-state rescues can take part in this transition work.

In one comment during the meeting, the TGP lobbyist noted that the "industry" has declined and cited the "constant assaults from animal rights groups, which are growing stronger" as one large factor in the sport's loss of popularity. Correct, and I, for one, will continue to make the activities that take place out at the track public until it's shuttered at the end of the year. I'm also committed to making sure the dogs are transitioned to new homes openly.

We're on the home stretch – now is not the time to simply sit by and watch, hoping for a good result. History shows us that we need to stay engaged.

Property Taxes

I started last week with a mention of income taxes – might as well keep a good thing going and talk about your property taxes this week. It's a potential good news item, though.

If you're disabled and can no longer work, you can have your property taxes reduced by a significant amount. The 'disability' may be age-related, and it isn't necessarily tied to being, say, in a wheelchair for life.

Call the 'exemption' line at the County Assessor's Office (724.7500) and someone will walk you through it. The very short message is that if your doctor signs off on the form the assessor will send to you, you're on your way to a tax reduction.

As more of us get to the point where we have to take a more active interest in our parents' affairs, things like these benefits will become lifelines to those on fixed incomes. The

folks at the county office were very helpful and pleasant in describing the eligibility criteria on the phone with me.

Down Payment Assistance

Similarly, a few weeks ago I shared the data from the Drachman Institute showing the percentage of owner-occupied houses versus rentals in many of the neighborhoods surrounding campus. They're all suffering the same decrease in owner versus rental occupancy.

Through the Tucson Industrial Development Authority (IDA), you may be able to qualify for a 4% down payment assistance grant. The grants are applicable to 30-year fixed rate VA, FHA, and USDA loans. They have to be applied to primary residences and owner-occupied properties, and they're available to both first time and non-first time home buyers.

The grants are income-based, and the properties must be located within Pima County. (Which, by the way, includes all of the City of Tucson. Some policy makers sometimes forget that fact.) There are several lenders in the area who are participating with the IDA on this. If you'd like to check into the specifics, contact kvaldez@bdfc.com or call 882.5591 x126. The website is www.tucsonida.com.

Whatever steps we can take to encourage more home ownership around the UA are steps in the right direction.

Broadway

First, let's dispel the notion that anybody serious is trying to stop the project. Those of us who have been working on this for years want to make the project an asset to the community – not kill it. And there are lots of people in that camp, myself included.

I'd liken that goal to this quote:

"Intellectuals solve problems; geniuses prevent them."

-Albert Einstein

In this case, it doesn't take a genius to see that we can do better than what's on the table in front of us right now. Here's an example.

The old Panda site is sitting vacant. A pair of local women have a vision for opening a coffee shop housed in a London-style double decker bus, something like this:



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

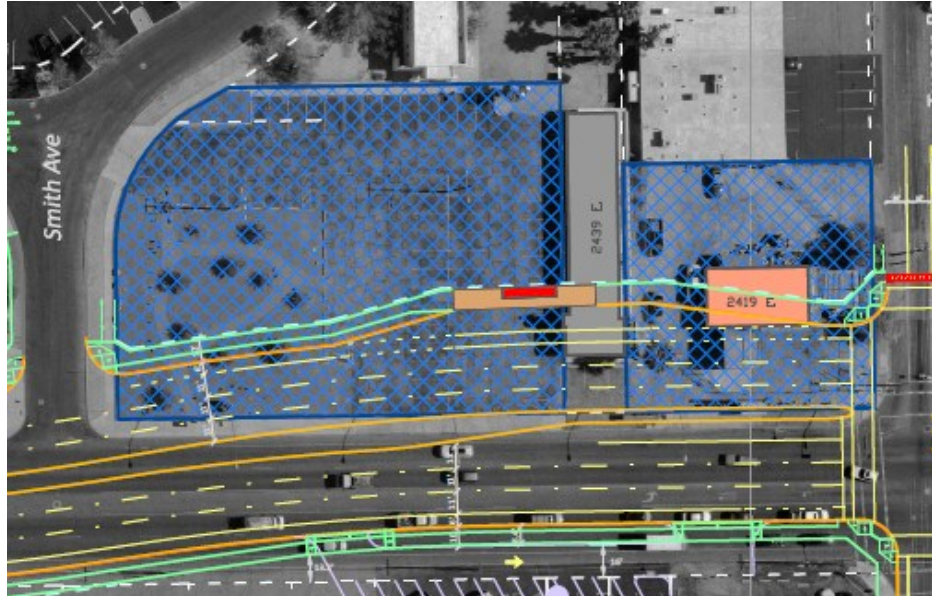
Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

Two issues. First, the current 30% design takes over half of the site. Here's the proposed alignment:



The blue sort of rectangle in the middle of the picture is the site. The dashed line running through the middle of it is the proposed alignment. That makes the coffee bus a challenge. What ends the conversation, though, is the city's flat refusal to sell even the remnant parcel to the ladies. Instead, we insist on waiting to amass land all the way to Tucson Blvd on the east to market the whole site sometime in the future for some signature project – yet to be identified.

The coffee bus is exactly the sort of project the community has embraced throughout the design process. It doesn't seem to fit the city planners' vision, though. That's a problem.

Contemporary urban design planning all across the country creates destinations. It does not simply widen arterials so people can drive more quickly past the built environment. The RTA and County plan hasn't seemed to get ahold of that quite yet. They'll soon trust the voters to imagine they will if they're reauthorized for another 20 years of sales taxes.

Based on the outpouring of interest in this issue, I again asked for a change of venue for our vote on the 30% design this Tuesday, April 19th. We'll be holding our regular session in the County Board of Supervisors meeting room - same place where we held the public hearing on this issue back on the 5th. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm.

During the meeting, I will ask M&C to consider giving this design effort one final push toward the finish line. In the past week, I've been in touch with some local urban planners who are offering themselves up 'pro bono' to work with the Citizens Task Force (CTF) and see if they can design a corridor, framed by the CTF's earlier work, that more closely matches what the community has been asking for. That is in keeping with modern urban planning – based not on 30-year-old concepts but on current demographics. With the summer coming, I'll be asking M&C to give this group until September to bring us a redrawn alignment. Given that our decisions will last for decades, allowing this team to work over the summer is not out of line. The team offering itself up for this work is comprised of

local architects and individuals involved with the UA College of Architecture – people who have studied best practices in both transportation and urban planning. The group believes – and I’ve been saying this for four years – that we can design a corridor that improves functionality (even by the RTA’s very limited definition that term) and preserves the tax base that’s now being targeted for demolition.

The M&C should not design the corridor from the dais. Nor should we ignore the talents of our local planning community. I’m hopeful that the majority of us believe that giving this team the summer to work with the CTF is a valid investment in getting this right.

In our study material, this comment is included:

If the Project does not move forward, substantial maintenance and repair to roadway surfaces and sidewalks will be needed on this segment of Broadway Boulevard.

As I noted above, nobody’s talking about cancelling the project – this conversation is about making it better.

On Tuesday, we’ll be asked to add \$18M to the project budget for the purchase and acquisition of buildings that are impacted in the 30% design plan. Again, this language is in our material:

To date, planning, design, and right-of-way purchase costs are \$9,095,470. \$7,829,694 is from RTA. RTA Administrative Code, approved at the RTA Board Meeting on December 11, 2014, requires that project costs previously reimbursed by the RTA be repaid to the RTA should any RTA project be canceled by any Lead Agency. Current estimates indicate that, if the Project is cancelled, maintenance and repair work could cost the City \$41,000,000.

Nobody on the M&C will be advocating we do anything that results in reimbursing nearly \$8M to the RTA. Neither should the RTA and County advocate we do anything that ignores the will of the people paying their bills, or that makes insignificant travel improvements to the corridor. This cannot be done in the name of “honoring the will of the voters” when everybody involved with the project knows that what appeared on the ballot a decade ago is not what’s now being proposed now, even in the 30% alignment.

There are ‘lines in the sand,’



...and there are lines in the sand. We can find a way to make this work.

International Film Festival

Speaking of high capacity transit – the International Film Festival is taking place this week through May 1st all along the streetcar route. The festival includes 30 features and 38 shorts from 25 different countries. The Screening Room is the host site for most of the films, but also included are the Center for Creative Photography and the Independent Distillery for an after party.

The streetcar can be used for access to any of the sites, and for visiting a ton of restaurants along the way, as well. Here's a link that will show you all the films, times they're being shown, and where:

Arizona International Film Festival: <http://bit.ly/1Cx1QKF>

Budget

On Tuesday, we'll see what is likely to be closer to the final form of the FY'17 budget. We began with a \$42M deficit, but are going to end up with an operationally structured budget. Everyone involved in the process deserves credit for digging in and getting us to this point. We're close.



These guys are meerkats.



And these are gibbons.

This fall, the Reid Park Zoo is going to open two new exhibits – one for each of these guys. Why is that relevant to the budget? Because of the discussions I've shared in newsletters and at the council table related to price increases at the entry gate.

Staff has proposed the following changes to the zoo operations budget:

- *Reduce the General Fund contribution to the Zoo by recommending \$1 fee increase*
- *\$100,000 of the proposed fee increase will be set aside for future capital improvements*
- *Eliminate contracted custodial services in buildings and absorb those duties with existing zoo staff*
- *Fee increase will offset the elimination of funding for minor alterations or improvements to exhibits*

The trouble with that is they'll just take money from the \$100K in new revenue from the gate increases to refund the custodial positions being proposed for elimination. It's taking

money from one pocket and putting it into another.

What I've argued – and it's based on history – is that if we increase gate fees, unless it's tied to new exhibits, we lose customers, and we increase general fund subsidies to the zoo. The animals eat, regardless of who's standing there watching. I've proposed to staff that we instead consider this:

- ***Increase gate entry fees by \$1.50 (should yield \$500K)***
- ***Allocate \$150K to zoo capital improvement needs***
- ***Retain the current custodial contract***
- ***General Fund receives the balance of the new revenues (approximately \$350K)***

With the meerkat and gibbon exhibits coming this fall, we'll likely not see a reduction in attendance. I've spoken with zoo administration and know they'll be implementing some creative pricing options so low-income residents will not be priced out of the market.

This will be just one of the adjustments I'm sure we'll be hearing about on Tuesday. Other council members will likely ask for adjustments in the staff budget proposal as well. We're all focused on the structural balance challenge.

Annual Compensation Plan

Another piece of the budget is, of course, our compensation plan. The Charter requires that Human Resources (HR) present a new pay plan to us annually. To the extent we can – given our budgetary constraints – we want to be competitive in the labor market. To that end, HR conducted a series of market surveys from other cities and towns. Based on the findings, combined with our budget shortfall, they will recommend we stay status quo this year on pay levels. I'll be supporting that position. We have pension and benefit challenges that are only going to get worse before getting better. We don't have the money to increase pay right now.

Staff will hold a public hearing to listen to comments on this proposal. It'll be held in M&C chambers on Thursday, April 28th at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to come and share their thoughts.

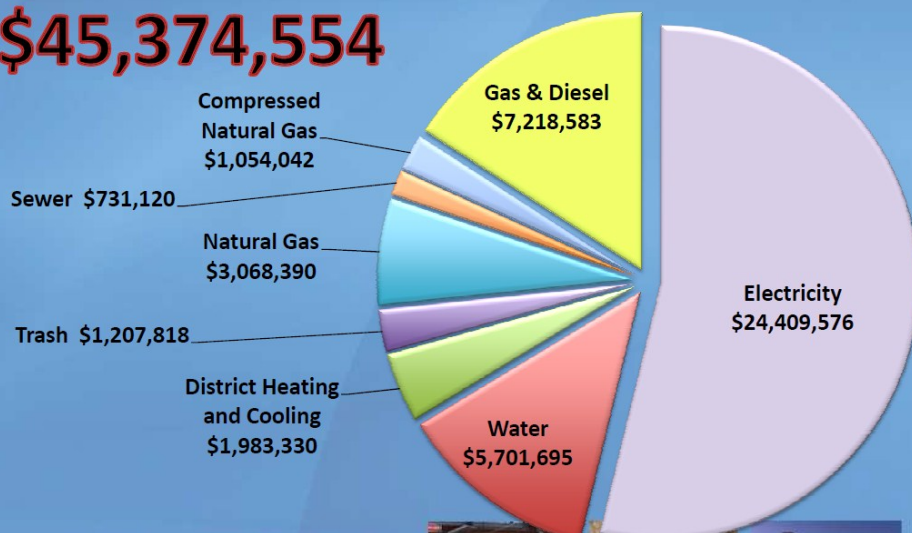
Energy and Water Costs

Another huge part of our budget is what we spend on utility costs. Last fiscal year that was over \$45M. Here's how we arrived at that number:

In order to get our arms around those increasing costs, we formed a team of representatives from 17 different city departments. Working under the direction of the City Manager's office, the team put together a list of near-term energy goals. Those include the following:

FY 15 Energy and Utility Expenditures:

\$45,374,554



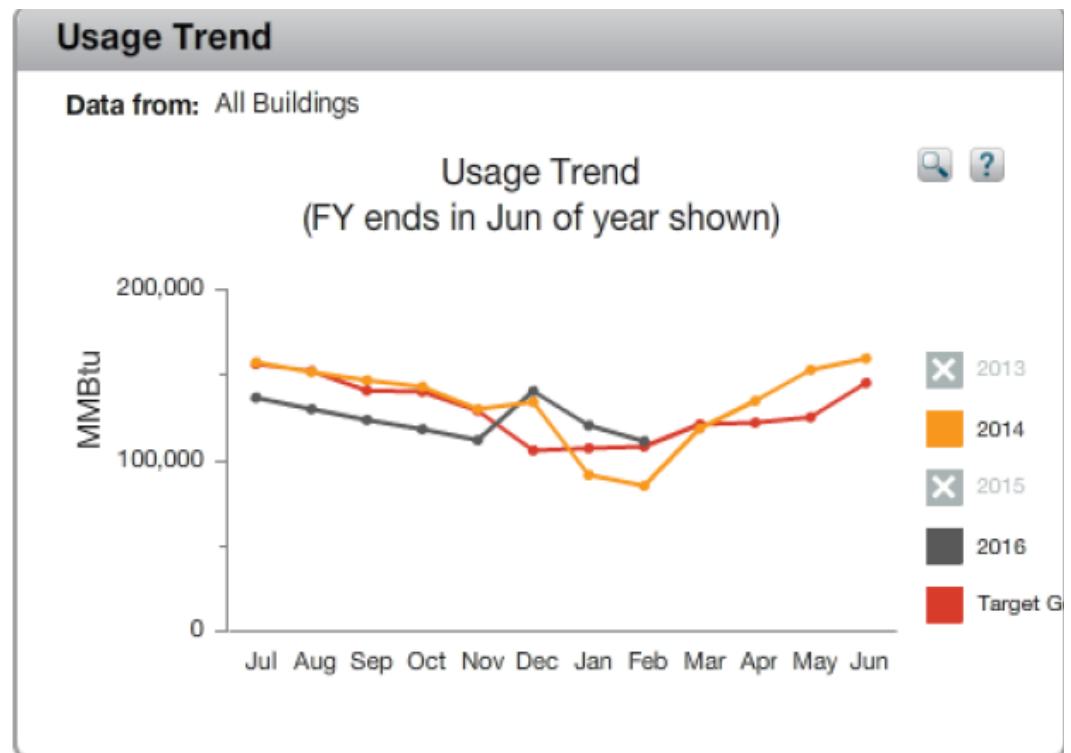
- Consume no more energy than we did in FY'15
- Reduce energy expenses by 2% annually compared to that FY'15 baseline
- Reduce potable water use by 10% by FY'20, using FY'15 as the baseline
- Establish a new culture of conservation throughout city departments

Doing this will preposition the city to achieve broader goals beyond FY'20.

So how are we doing? Our accomplishments so far include these initiatives – many of which I've written about in previous newsletters:

- We just began a major LED streetlight installation which will save energy and dollars over the life of the products
- Tucson Water will be happy to come to your home and/or business and conduct a water audit, giving you ideas on how to reduce use
- We're reducing water consumption in our parks due to the installation of 'smart irrigation' systems
- New solar installations have gone in on several of our larger facilities
- Tucson Water is in the process of installing 'smart meters' to reduce slippage and increase efficiency in meter reading. On this same note, I've met with the City Manager and leadership from TEP to encourage us to partner in using the infrastructure TEP already has in place to read our meters. An agreement can be worked out that will save the city significant money in new, redundant infrastructure by taking advantage of the investments TEP has already made. This will ultimately show the paying public that the government and private sectors can indeed work efficiently together to deliver services throughout the region.

Here's a chart that shows how our energy use is trending in comparison to previous years:



The red line is our target. The gray line is where we are so far this fiscal year. As you can see, it's a mixed bag – but we're within striking distance of hitting the goals we've set.

I am not an advocate of setting unrealistic goals. I'm also not an advocate of setting goals so easy to achieve that they don't take any effort or force any behavioral changes. I believe that setting 2015 as the baseline is a realistic starting point – which we can revisit when we achieve it and set the bar a bit higher.

Good work by all of the city departments who have had a role in both establishing these target goals and putting into place the protocols we need to meet them.

FY 2017 Recommended Budget – Tax Comparisons

In addition to the Charter changes we'll consider related to elections, we also have the ability to place questions related to changes in either property or sales taxes on the ballot. At this time, I don't believe there's a majority sense that November would be the right time to ask about tax changes. I've been public in stating that we should get our budget into an operationally balanced position before asking about funding mechanisms for our capital needs. But the question is still on the table for our May public hearing on the Charter revisions, so you should know how we stack up with other jurisdictions in the level of taxes being levied.

First it's important to know what cities and towns in the region rely on for raising revenues. This table is a good summary of that information.

SOURCES OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUES FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS			Pima County	Marana	Oro Valley	Sahuarita	South Tucson	Tucson
Direct User Taxes and Fees		Transit Fares			✓			✓
		Local HURF distributions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indirect Taxes and Fees	Property Taxes and Assessments	Primary Property Taxes	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
		Secondary Property Taxes and GO Bonds	✓	X	X	X	X	✓
		Improvement Districts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Community Facilities Districts	X	✓	X	✓	X	X
		Development Impact Fees	✓	✓	✓	X		✓
		Private Contributions and Extractions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sales Taxes	Municipal sales taxes for transportation	X	X	X	X	X	X
		Regional Transportation Sales Taxes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		Municipal Construction Sales Tax		✓	✓	✓	X	X

✓	Authorized and used
X	Authorized but not used
	Not authorized, not applicable, or impractical

One of the questions we may ask on the ballot is whether or not to remove the cap on our secondary property tax. That's the tax we impose to pay debt service. Right now, it's con-

sidered along with the primary property tax and capped at \$1.75 per \$100 assessed valuation. If we move the cap to apply only to primary property taxes (used to fund our operations) then we'd still have to go to the voters and ask for increases in the secondary tax rate – as we did when we asked you to fund road repair with Prop 409. That's one possible revenue change we could use to fund capital needs.

We rely on sales taxes for about 40% of our general fund budget. That's the biggie. This chart shows what others charge for sales taxes.

County	Jurisdiction	State Sales Tax	County Sales Tax	City Sales Tax	Total Sales Tax
Pima		5.6%	0.5%		6.1%
	<i>Marana</i>	5.6%	0.5%	2.5%	8.6%
	<i>Oro Valley</i>	5.6%	0.5%	2.5%	8.6%
	<i>Sahuarita</i>	5.6%	0.5%	2.0%	8.1%
	<i>South Tucson</i>	5.6%	0.5%	4.5%	10.6%
	<i>Tucson</i>	5.6%	0.5%	2.0%	8.1%
Maricopa		5.6%	0.7%		6.3%
	<i>Avondale</i>	5.6%	0.7%	2.5%	8.8%
	<i>Buckeye</i>	5.6%	0.7%	3.0%	9.3%
	<i>Chandler</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.5%	7.8%
	<i>Gilbert</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.5%	7.8%
	<i>Glendale</i>	5.6%	0.7%	2.9%	9.2%
	<i>Goodyear</i>	5.6%	0.7%	2.5%	8.8%
	<i>Mesa</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.75%	8.05%
	<i>Peoria</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.8%	8.1%
	<i>Phoenix</i>	5.6%	0.7%	2.3%	8.6%
	<i>Scottsdale</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.65%	7.95%
	<i>Surprise</i>	5.6%	0.7%	2.2%	8.5%
	<i>Tempe</i>	5.6%	0.7%	1.8%	8.1%
Coconino County		5.6%	1.3%		6.9%
	<i>Flagstaff</i>	5.6%	1.3%	2.051%	8.951%
Mohave County		5.6%	0.25%		5.85%
	<i>Lake Havasu</i>	5.6%	0.25%	2.0%	7.850%
Pinal County		5.6%	1.1%		6.7%
	<i>Casa Grande</i>	5.6%	1.1%	2.0%	8.7%
Yuma County		5.6%	1.112%		6.712%
	<i>Yuma</i>	5.6%	1.112%	1.7%	8.412%
Apache County		5.6%	0.5%		6.1%
Cochise County		5.6%	0.5%		6.1%
Gila County		5.6%	1.0%		6.6%
Graham County		5.6%	1.0%		6.6%
Greenlee County		5.6%	0.5%		6.1%
La Paz County		5.6%	2.0%		7.6%
Navajo County		5.6%	0.5%		6.1%
Santa Cruz County		5.6%	1.0%		6.6%
Yavapai County		5.6%	0.75%		6.35%

Our 2% is right about in the middle in terms of who charges what. A ballot question could ask to increase that amount to some new figure, or it could ask to remove the 2% cap im-

posed by the Charter, allowing us to bring questions about earmarking increases to specific uses to the voters.

At this time, I doubt we'll take any of those questions to you this November – but we could, so I wanted you to have this information ahead of the May public hearing on the Charter changes so you can weigh in with some comparative data.

Neighborhood Huddle



First, full disclosure. When Amy and Rebecca Ruopp told me they had chosen the name 'Huddle' for the neighborhood meeting we held last Saturday, I wanted to do this to them both: <https://youtu.be/5IjmOSFtoJc>.

But regardless of the name, the event turned out to have been a productive three hours. This was far from being just a Ward 6 event. This map shows how widespread the representation was – neighborhood associations from all over the area. I even spent time talking to a

guy who had come up from Benson for it.

At the end of the meeting, people were asked to post requests at the front of the room for future neighborhood workshops. Since I'm in the 'budget' section of the newsletter, I'll share two comments that got a lot of interest: "fix the roads" and "city to fund neighborhood projects." Those aren't 'future workshop ideas,' but they are worth a comment.

First, we are fixing the roads with the \$20M per year you approved through Prop 409. If the RTA is extended, I'd want to see an earmark of some percentage of that half-cent sales tax for road repair, too. Second, we're trying to balance our budget. We don't have cash for funding neighborhood projects. But we do have ways we can help – and those might be good topics for future workshops.

Grant writing is an art form, and sources for grants relevant to specific projects is knowledge not widely shared. A future workshop could focus on those items and represent a way for the city to help neighborhoods find funding sources for projects. But the folks who arranged the 'huddle' are compiling all of the suggestions from the meeting and will reach out to frame the basis for what we talk about next time the group gets together.

The meeting was also helpful in offering residents some insights on how to find certain resources through the city website. Neighborhood Resources is now in the Planning and Development Services Department (PDS). To find the link, search for City of Tucson Plan-



ning and Development Services Department, and find the Neighborhood Resources link in the left hand column on the main page. There, you'll find links to things such as mailings, sample by-laws, various meeting facilities, how you register as a neighborhood association, and a lot more. If you have any trouble navigating the site, call Becky Flores at 837.5013 or email neighborhood@tucsonaz.gov.

We also saw a presentation from Don Ijams on the Neighborhood Support Network (NSN). You can access that site through <http://neighborsupport.net>. Don has a lot of information coming onto the website on a regular basis – things such as police activity in your neighborhood, and how to track progress related to code enforcement going on in your area. If you have any trouble making sense out of what you find on that site, you can track Don down at dsijams@gmail.com.

All in all, regardless of the name, the Saturday event was time well spent. Thanks to Amy, Rebecca, Becky Flores, Don Ijams and Judith Anderson for the time they invested in pulling it all together.



This week's Local Tucson item is the upcoming VegFest. On Sunday, April 24th from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, you'll be able to sample plant-based foods from a variety of local farmers' markets. They'll also have live entertainment, raffles, face painting, and will be giving cooking demonstrations.

FoodInRoot is the local host for the event. It'll be held downtown at the Whistle Stop Depot (127 W 5th Street) and a portion of the proceeds will go to support City High School. More info online: <http://foodinroot.com/veg/>.



The upcoming ACT Construction Trade Show deserves to be mentioned as a local Tucson event, too.

This Wednesday, the 8th annual Alliance of Construction Trades 'Construction Show' will take place at the Hotel Tucson (475 N Granada). It will feature over 120 exhibitors including everything from subcontractors to equipment and material suppliers. This isn't a show for contractors, but for anybody who might be considering any form of home repair. The show will run from noon until 6:00 pm. Both admission and parking are free.

If you'd like more information on the event, contact the ACT at 624.3002 or check out its website at www.actconstructionshow.com.

ARSOBO Forum - This Thursday at the Loft

Here's a final reminder to stop by the Arizona Sonora Border Project (ARSOBO) forum we're hosting at the Loft this Thursday. The event will begin with a free happy hour at

6:00 pm, and the forum will start at 6:30 pm in the main auditorium.

Check out Sarah Garrecht-Gassen's column from last Thursday's Star for a good description of how this program works. We will be introducing you to participants from Nogales, Sonora, and from the UA. These are people who have benefited from the program and students who have taken part in the global health initiatives work in which ARSOBO participates. At a time when affordable health care and international relations quickly turn into hot-button political topics, this program is an example of how both are being done right. On top of that, they're being done right here in our own backyard.



Please carve out the time to come and learn what's being done and how you can be a part of it.

Licensing

Two quick puppy items – a licensing reminder, and how your old shoes can help fund medical costs for greyhounds injured at Tucson Greyhound Park.

When we did the licensing and vaccination event at Ward 6 last year, we had well over 100 people come through to update those items for their furry family members. Licenses are good for a year, and you can renew them easily online. Here's the Pima Animal Care website to use for that purpose: [Pima Animal Care Center online](http://PimaAnimalCareCenter.org).

Every dog that's over three months old and is kept anywhere within Pima County is required to be vaccinated for rabies and licensed. You need a veterinarian to do the vaccinating. Getting the license protects the dog in the event it wanders away and ends up at PACC. They'll know how to find its home. If you have any questions about what's required or how to get your pets updated, contact PACC at 724.5969 or email them at licensingpacc@pima.gov. And the in-person route is always an option – 4000 N. Silverbell Rd.



Jackie's Fund for Injured Greyhounds

Jackie was a greyhound who came out of racing with a broken leg. She needed extensive medical care – all paid for by the donors who support Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption (SAGA).

SAGA is participating in a program that will help them fund their rescue work, and at the same time help fund overseas micro-business operations. Through the Funds2Orgs program, if SAGA is able to collect 2,500 gently worn shoes, they'll earn \$1,000 toward their work. So this is a fund raiser, but it won't cost you any money.

There are plenty of shoe drop-off locations. They include Birdhouse Yarns (2540 E. 6th St), Briarcrest Veterinary (7313 E. Tanque Verde), Canada Hills Animal Hospital (10590 N. La Canada), and Dirty Dawgs Self-Serve Dog Wash (3055 N. Campbell). If none of those work, there will be a drop off location at the Trail Dog Day event held at Trail Dust Town on April 24th.

This fund raiser ends on May 14th. You can either throw your old shoes in the trash or use them to help SAGA pay for the medical bills related to the greyhounds tossed in their direction by the 'hopefully near the end of their operations' Tucson Greyhound Park. Pretty easy choice.

May 9th Loft Event – Under the Gun



That's a lot to mark on your calendar – so I'll just tease this event for now. Last fall I wrote about a couple who was in town buying guns – cash and carry – at our local gun shows. They were filming a show for the Sundance Film Festival on how easy it is to buy semi-automatic weapons. We decided that the two AK-47s, the .45, and the shotgun they ended up with would make tough

carry-on luggage, so I bought the guns from them and got them permanently out of circulation.

I'm working with Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America to bring the show they shot on that trip to the Loft. We've got the venue reserved, and we are just beginning to put the plans in place. The event will lead up to the June 2nd Wear Orange Day, a nationwide effort to bring awareness to the need for gun safety laws. The Loft pre-screening of Under the Gun will be just one of several chances you'll have to join us in delivering that message.

More on this one to come as we get closer to the 9th.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6

Events and Entertainment

Updated Information:

Tucson Water and Environmental Services
invite you to learn about

Proposed Rates, Service Fees & Water Reliability

April 20 • April 25
April 26 • April 28

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Short presentation begins at 5:45 p.m.

MEET EXPERTS • ASK QUESTIONS



Attend a town hall to get an update on City of Tucson Water and Environmental Services rate proposals: What is Tucson Water doing to stay financially stable? What does it cost to deliver water to your tap? What effect will the rate proposals have on your utility statement?

The same information will be presented at each session; please attend the one most convenient for you.

TOWN HALL DATE/TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS
Wednesday, April 20, 2016 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Mesquite Room	900 S. Randolph Way
Monday, April 25, 2016 5:30-7:30 p.m.	El Pueblo Activity Center	101 W. Irvington Road
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Quincie Douglas Library Large Meeting Room	1585 E. 36th Street
Thursday, April 28, 2016 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Tucson Water Eastside Service Facility	10445 E. Golf Links Road

More information: (520) 791-4331



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Pops in the Park

Sunday, May 1, 2016 | 7 pm

DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center, Reid Park

The Civic Orchestra of Tucson closes out its 40th season with a free "pops" concert at the Reid Park Band Shell. An instrument petting zoo in front of the stage will begin at 6 pm.

This concert features music from popular films, the winner of the orchestra's Young Artists'

Competition and the debut of our first 7-year-old conductor (or "semi-conductor" as we call him)! www.cotmusic.org/upcoming.aspx

National Park Rx Day

Sunday April 24, 2016 | 9 am

Jefferson Park Neighborhood | Meet at 1802 N Lester St

Give yourself the gift of good health by getting outdoors for the first ever National Park Rx Day – a day celebrated across the U.S. to promote prescribing parks and nature to patients to improve human health. Join the Jefferson Park Historic Neighborhood and Banner-University Medical Center to walk, bike or run the neighborhood's history and health loop. www.jeffersonpark.info

Ongoing

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd | www.uamineralmuseum.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave | www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St | www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St | www.rialtototheatre.com

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd | www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave | www.arizonatheatre.org

The Rogue Theatre, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | www.theroguetheatre.org

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave | www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

January 16 – June 3, 2016: "Waterflow: Under the Colorado River"

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church St | tucsonconventioncenter.com

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St | www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too! Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln | www.tucsonbirthplace.org

A living agricultural museum and ethnobotanical garden at the site of Tucson's Birthplace (the foot of "A-Mountain"). A non-profit educational organization demonstrating the region's rich agricultural history by growing the heritage crops that represent the more than 4000 years of cultivation in the Tucson Basin. Open Saturdays: April through November 8 am to 12 pm and December through March 10 am to 2 pm. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave | www.childrensmuseumtucson.org
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org
October 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016: *"Butterfly Magic" Exhibit*

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave |
www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org